SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE LIBRARY

whole summary of the say this hope —

E NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1879.

NURSERIES OF DISEASE.

Sanitary Imperfections of Our Public Buildings.

Health Officer Townshend's Report—Foul and Unventilated Condition of the Treasury—The Air They Breathe in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing—The Government Printing-Office.

Insanitary Condition of Government Buildings.

The following report on the sanitary condition of some of our public buildings was submitted to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia yesterday by Health Officer Townshend. The subject is one which comes home to many in our community, and will be read with interest:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
OFFICE OF HEALTH OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, April 7, 1879.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

GENTLEMEN: In common with a great majority of practicing physicians of the District of Columbia I have been frequently called upon in my private practice to attend persons employed in the various departments of the General Government in this city whose maladies pointed directly to the breathing of a poisoned atmosphere for their origin. In fact, the foul, unventilated condition of some of our public buildings has been a matter of common report, accepted by all as beyond contradiction for years. Occasionally some sufferer has written a few lines on the subject, [illegible] made spasmodic outbursts, and [illegible] vague rumors and reports at long intervals of some proposed improvement.

There seems to have been, however, no one who considered it exactly his place or duty to point out the defects or propose a remedy. The soldier in camp, barrack, or hospital, has his surgeon to care for him when sick and officers to see that his quarters are in healthful condition when well; and so the sailor; with scrupulous care his surroundings are looked after and every contrivance for the improvement of their sanitary condition applied. Even the marines—that best abused corps of our country's defenders—their health and lives are cared for; but the civil employee of our Government is left out in the cold as regards sanitary care. He is placed in quarters the exterior of which have been the architect's chief care and are the builder's pride; massive and grand in many instances, and most pleasing to the eye. The interior, too, is well provided for in many respects—fine carpets, fine furniture, fine hangings, the modern conveniences in the shape of a water-closet at one elbow and a stationary wash-stand, with hot and cold water, at the other; a temperature almost reaching the pinetics, and an atmosphere revolting to the lungs of one accustomed to pure air.

Considering it my duty as Health Officer of the District of Columbia to look into this matter of the condition of the public buildings, I have, in company with two assistants, made a personal inspection of the following named structures, and would invite your careful attention to the following report thereon:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

This vast building, covering an area of 528x300 feet of ground, and sheltering about 2,000 employees, engaged at the several diffarent branches of industry necessary in making, issuing, and canceling the currency, and auditing the accounts of the financial departments of our Government, was built at a cost of $6,800,000, and furnished without the least provision being made for ventilation by other than natural means.

Our inspection was commenced in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, on the fourth floor of the building, from whence we proceeded downward.

The following tabulated statement will show the title, dimensions, air space, number of persons employed, and air space to each in the rooms in this bureau:

Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Treasury Department.

Room.	Dimensions. Length.	Width.	Height.	Air space—cubic feet.	Number of persons employed.	Air space to each person.
Chief's Office	22	20	12	5280	2	2640
Assistant Chief's Office	20.6	19.6	12	3794	3	1264.66
Accountant's Office	54.6	21	12	13734	17	807.88
Records and Files	25	20.6	12	6150	1	6150
Vault	36	19.8	12	8496	3	2832
Numbering Division.						
Examining Room	31.6	24.6	12	9258	15	617.2
Separating Room	31.6	25	12	9450	13	726.92
Numbering Room	90	20	12	23040	55	418.90
Binding Division.						
Binding Room	88.3	20.4	9	16204	6	2700.66
Perforating Room	55.4	39	12	25680	39	658.46
Milligan Press-room	35	11	9	3465		
Neale Appleton Press-room	35	11.8	9	3678		
Surface Sealing Room	55	35	9	17325	19	911.84
*Wetting Room	.....	.....	...	12870	31	415.16
Examing Room	132	39	9	41580	74	561.89
Hardening Room	47	19.9	9	8344.2	2	4172.1
Engraving Room	20	10	9	1800	1	1800
Superintendent's Room	19.8	17.4	9	3066	2	1533
Office Printing Division	20.8	17	9	3162	7	451.71
†Press-room	.....	.....	...	97173	446	217.87

*Two rooms. †Five rooms.

With the exceptions of the floor in this (lavatory room and wetting room), was unfit for breathing. There is abundant air space, it will be noticed, in a majority of the rooms, if there was only proper means provided for removal of the air rendered impure. The great necessity for ventilation which has existed here is evidenced by the rude attempts which have been made to accomplish the object. Prominent among these is a series of skylights which open by means of weights and rope pulleys. These were found closed in every instance where a workman was stationed near, and they gave as a reason therefor that draughts were created whenever they were left open. This was always the case in windy weather, and rains or storms neccssitated their being closed altogether.

The folly of depending upon windows for ventilation was illustrated many times during our inspection. The opening of a window occasions a draught of cold air, and the one employed near suffering therefrom is not slow in closing the aparture. Employees being stationed near the windows, in every instance it is impossible to secure any supply of fresh air by this means. Windows are the sole dependence in a majority of rooms in this building. The only salvation of the employees in the rooms of this bureau is the large amount of air space in a majority of the rooms.

The binding room furnishes nearly 2,800 cubic feet of air space for each occupant, and yet the air in this room, to one coming from the outside, was anything but pleasant. All the rooms are virtually communicating, they are connected by corridors, which furnish free ingress and egress to the air from each other, and the impurities generated in each mingling, a combination of bad smells is met with everywhere. The stock and storerooms are close, stifling boxes, emitting their vitiated air into the work rooms.

THE DRESSING-ROOMS.

Pefect pest-holes. I cannot find terms too strong in which to condemn the system of what are termed dressing rooms here, and it is earnestly to be hoped that proper provision will be made for the clothing of employees in the building now in course of erection. Here are close attic rooms, partitioned off into stalls, and literally packed with the clothing of those at work. Imagine the contents of the wash-basket of a hundred or two hundred families strung up around a small-sized room; these garments, which have been for days and often weeks absorbing the impurities from the bodies of the wearers, now throwing off their offensive odors into the atmosphere, and that atmosphere being sent out to be breathed by those at work in the rooms adjoining. The only means of getting fresh air into these dressing-rooms, as they are termed, is by means of one, and perhaps in some cases two, of the skylight ventilators, already referred to, and which we found closed almost without exception. Upon opening them, so as to be enabled to breathe ourselves, and inquiring why they were not kept open, the lady in charge replied that the draught on her head gave her cold, and she was forced to close them.

Into these close rooms all the "working clothing" is stored during the night, while the workmen are at their homes, and is replaced by that worn to work in the morning. Combined with the odor from worn clothing came that of cold food also. Many, perhaps all, of the persons employed bring with them their dinners or lunches and this food is left either in vessels or in packages with the clothing during the morning hours. The disgusting odor which emanated from these places cannot be described. As I said before the air from these rooms is carried out into the work rooms and this is also the case in every place where there was any unusual impurity generated. No provision whatever has been made to isolate the offensive departments or to carry off the offensive odors therefrom. In the wetting room the moist air was a relief to the lungs and the air here is probably less impure from the opportunities afforded for absorption of the impurities than in any other room in the bureau.

The atmosphere of the press-rooms was very offensive. These rooms, five in number, have, it will be seen by reference to the foregoing table, less air space *per capita* than any of the others. The minimum quantity sanctioned by authorities is 500 cubic feet per head where persons are employed at such trades as plate printing, yet here we find but 217 and a fraction air space furnished for each. The large press-room is, I am informed, the largest room of its kind in the world, and an employee told me further, "the best." If such be the fact plate printers in other rooms throughout the globe have my hearty sympathy. How air could be rendered more foul in this room and then be tolerated I am at a loss to conceive. My head ached terribly after an hour's experience.

Think of a room or rooms covering 10,797 square feet of surface, employing 446 persons, generating impurities by the use of numerous chemicals on heated plates, and by use of other materials, numbers of gas-jets burning the oxygen from the air, and the surrounding rooms adding their impure air and no means being provided for ventilation!

Public buildings and workshops where great numbers of persons are crowded together are beyond the control of natural and fresh air should be provided by well devised means. It is just as important that we breathe pure air as it is that we eat pure food or drink pure water. Indeed, it is more important to attend to the cleanliness of a medium in which we are always bathed, and which is constantly passing in and out of our bodies, than of that which is occasionally introduced into an organ which contains a fluid possessing a certain antiseptic and destructive power over injurious substances. Many of us would hesitate long before immersing our bodies in a pool of filthy water, and it is time we were being educated up to the same repugnance for filthy air.

It is now a well ascertained fact that air only moderately vitiated, if breathed for a long time, day after day, produced most serious results. "The train of evils," says one of our authorities, "is so slowly but surely laid as to escape the observation of an experienced medical man, who sees in a case of blood-poisoning from impure air one of imperfect or defective assimulation, anæmia, dyspepsia, hysterica, disordered biliary functions, or one of those indefinite or chronic ailments which lead the way to the development of some visceral disease."

In the hardening room, engraving division, we found several charcoal furnaces, and practically no means of ventilation.

As I said before, the atmosphere in all the rooms was found about the same. The corridors are vast ducts for the transmission of foul air from one room to the other.

One of the water closets was exceptionally free from offensive odors, and it was found to be one which had been particularly offensive at the time of a former inspection of the closets, and the engineer's attention being directed to it he had placed a small fan under the seat, constructed a duct to the roof, and, keeping the fan in motion, the foul odors were carried off most successfully. Upon visiting some of the others, and finding them very far from pleasant, inquiry was made as to why the same course had not been pursued, but echo answered, "why?"

It would be useless to go on and describe the condition of each separate room. The air was foul in all, and some means for the improvement of the defect in ventilation should be made at once.

The conditions before described can in no way be attributed to the officers in charge of this bureau. On the contrary everything in their power has been done to better the sanitary condition of the rooms. The utmost cleanliness was observed on all sides, but the construction of the building and nature of work militates against their efforts and they are but the sufferers.

Passing down on the third floor of the building the rooms used by the Light-House Board, Department of the Internal, Revenue, Comptroller of the Currency, Mint, Secretary's Office, &c. &c., were examined. Here we had but a repetition of our experience above. The only difference being that the atmosphere was free from the odors of inks, clothing &c., &c. The air was impure, however, and no means are provided for ventilation. Transoms are supplied over the doors, but the air passing in from the halls is just as foul as that in the rooms, and consequently this affords no relief.

The secret of the foul air in the halls was found upon getting into the basement later on. This underground portion of the building is but a vast receptacle for the manufacture of foul air, which, by means of the stairways, is carried into the halls above, and thence distributed via the transoms into the rooms. The hottest air congregating and being held in the upper stories, attracts the air from below, which is always found forcing its way in volumes up the stairways. One need only to walk down one of these openings to have a practical illustration of this fact. The basement is filled with printing-offices, binderies, storerooms, and workshops for the various trades, each of which contributes its share of impurity to the air which is sent above to be breathed by the clerks and other employees.

The rooms occupied by the Light-House Board, especially Nos. 22, 24, and 25, occupied by ladies, are very defective in ventilation, having only the windows and transoms to depend on.

The water-closets in the southwest corner of the building on this floor were very offensive, and the appliance of a ventilator similar to that used in the closet referred to in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing would be of great advantage. The soil-pipes attached to every closet in the building should have proper ventilating tubes. It is simply impossible to keep free from offense any water-closet discharging into an unventilated sewer connection.

SEWER GAS

is a subtle enemy to health, and we should be well entrenched against it in such a building as this. The odor of the sewers was plainly perceptible in nearly every closet entered. One or two of the rooms in which they were situated had means provided for conducting off offensive odors; but we are told it is a waste of ventilation when directed against avoidable polutions of the air. Traps were found in these closets, but ventilation of the pipes will perform the great protection. No trap or seal is absolutely safe unless the pipe is ventilated.

Passing from the closets along the hall of the west wing the rooms were each examined, but nothing new was revealed. Occasionally an open grate was found in a room, and in every such case, where it was in use, an improvement in the air was noticed.

A contrivance for admitting fresh air was noticed in some of these rooms and in many of the others afterward. It consists of an opening about half an inch in width just under the window-sill, on the outside, whence fresh air was to enter, then passing over and down was admitted to the room through a perforated board at the floor. These have gone out of use for various reasons. Many were found plastered up on the outside, others closed from within, and they were generally spoken of as a "nuisance." Clerks sitting near them complained that the draught of cold air on their feet gave them [illegible] how interfered, it is said, with the [illegible] and they have been condemned in consequence.

Draught is not ventilation. Good ventilation is the art of supplying to each room in a building pure air of a healthful degree of humidity, with an accompanying provision for the immediate removal of that which has been breathed, and in such manner that no draft is created. The impurity of air connected by the nose. When we enter a room in 10,000 more than six volumes of carbonic acid ble, and our [illegible] pronounce it "close," disagreeable condition of this warn us that it is not the proper there is scarcely a element in which we live; yet after having been occupied in this building which, ing, does not contain this two hours in the morn- bonic acid and animal organ and more of carby the lungs in respiration. matter thrown off

In the Files Division, on the fourth floor of the north wing, the atmosphere was very offensive. These rooms are packed with shelves containing stamp stubs and being dark considerable gas has to be burned. Besides being in a very unhealthful condition, there must be great danger from fire. It would prove a perfect tinder box in case of an accident of this kind. The water closets on third floor in the northeast corner were also very offensive, having an insufficient water supply and no ventilation. They are also insufficient in number.

The rooms occupied by the Comptroller of the Currency in west hall of third floor were in about same condition. In room 30, Organization Division, air was very foul; here we found the window-sill ventilators closed. No change for the better was experienced in the rooms occupied by the Director of the Mint, and his assistants. Room 33, was especially noticeable for its foul air and offensive odors.

The employees in Loan Division are no better off. Indeed, working at night as they do, burning numerous gas-jets, and being without means for the removal of foul air, it is wonderful that they exist. Inquiry among the employees here have elicited the fact that headache is a common complaint, and in my opinion persons exposed to such influences must fall an easy prey to any disease which attacks the system.

On the second floor of the building it was but the same story—windows and transoms. Windows never opened except in warm weather; transoms open in a majority of cases; air in halls as foul as in the rooms.

In some of the rooms in the Secretary's office, and in the Redemtion Division, we found piles of old currency which, after pssing through hundreds and thousands of hands, is brought here and recounted, bundled and cancelled. The odor from this mass of filthy paper was plainly perceptible upon entering the room. Instead of being placed in these unventilated rooms to poison the air, special arrangements should be made for it in thoroughly ventilated apartments, and thorough disenfection be resorted to before handling.

The rooms in the south wing are in somewhat better condition, but there is room for great improvement even there.

In the basement, as I said before, there are numerous workshops, storerooms, &c., &c. The bindery on east wing, with all the impurities from glue, &c., attendant upon such an institution; the files room of Internal Revenue Department, filled with old books, files, &c., carpenter and cabinet making shops, printing-offices, &c., all generating impure air to be carried aloft.

At the time of our inspection they were washing the floor of the west hall in the basement, it being a wooden one; as soon as we turned to descend the stairway to the basement the odor of soap-suds arising from the drying boards met our nostrils, and it was simply disgusting.

All the impurities which arise below are carried by means of the stairways and transoms direct to the lungs of the clerks above, and they are the ones who are most affected by foul air, sitting, as they do all day, at their desks, they do not throw off the poison as do those whose muscles are called into constant and energetic action.

DISEASES RESULTING FROM FOUL AIR.

In 1874, out a total mortality of 2,637 in the District of Columbia, 436 deaths resulted from phthisis pulmonalis, or consumption, and 237 from other diseases of the respiratory organs. In 1875 the total mortality was 4,352. Of this number 579 died from phthisis and 621 from other respiratory diseases. In 1876, of the total number (4,246), phthisis claimed 595, and 578 more died from the other diseases of the respiratory organs. In 1877, out of a total of 4,103 deaths, 609 resulted from phthisis and 475 from other respiratory diseases; and from the total of 3,023 dying during the nine months ending June 30, 1878, phthisis claimed 550, and the other respiratory diseases 257.

Here we see in the four years and nine months ending June 30, 1878, consumption has taken from our population in this District 2,769 persons, while the other diseases of the respiratory organs have claimed 2,168 as their share of the victims. That air vitiated by reseration is the one great cause of pulmonary consumption, which may be transmitted from parents to children for generations needs no proof. It rests on too great a mass of evidence. "I have always maintained," says Fox, "an increased experience has only increased my previous conviction, that the impure condition of the air in our factories, public buildings, and dwellings has much to do with the prevalence of such diseases as phthisis pulmonalis, bronchitis, and pneumonia, which together make up nearly one-quarter of the total mortality, and if we could strike a telling blow at that great universal evil—namely, poisoning by impure air—we would do much to save life. Unventilated and overcrowded workshops, public buildings, and schools are the nurseries of stumous diseases which sap the life and strength of the community."

Dr. Parkes mentions a remarkable circumstance illustrative of the connection of impure air and consumption. In the badly ventilated prison of Leopoldstadt, Vienna, 514 per 1,000 died of consumption, while in the well ventilated house of correction in London 7.9 per 1,000 only died of this disease.

In Dr. Guy's evidence before the Health of Towns Common in London he made some striking statements as to the journeymen printers of that city. He divided them into three classes. The first class consisted of men who worked in rooms where they had less than 500 cubic feet of air space per head. Of these 12½ per cent. had spit blood and a like proportion had been subject to catarrh. The second class comprised men who had between 500 and 600 feet of breathing space each, and among them intermediate effects were noticed. The third class comprised men who worked in shops having more than 600 feet of air space per capita, and among these 4 per cent. had suffered from spitting blood and only 2 per cent. from catarrh.

The testimony of the most able physicians of this and other countries; the result of inquiries as to the prevalence of this disease among the picked men of the armies and navies of the world; the reports of hospitals for consumption and of committees appointed to make special investigations as to jails, workhouses, and schools, all in various degrees point to this one conclusion.

WINDER'S BUILDING.

This building, situated on the corner of Seventeenth and G streets northwest, owned by the Government, and occupied by the Second Auditor and some officers of the War Department, although in somewhat better condition than the Treasury Department, can by no means be termed satisfactory as regards ventilation, heating, &c. The air in rooms on the upper floors was decidedly close at the time of inspection and temperature much too high. The necessity for economizing fuel has been one of the great drawbacks against ventilation in tenements, schools, &c., but this cannot be urged in the case of Government buildings, as a majority of them are perfect hot-houses at all times.

The gentleman in charge of this building is an engineer, and is firmly convinced that thorough ventilation is secured. And I must say that his system of getting a large quantity of moderately heated air into the rooms is vastly better than that of getting a small quantity parched. I think, if I remember rightly, he estimated his supply at 48,000 cubic feet per minute. But, notwithstanding this fact, air in many rooms in the upper stories was far from pure, and I can only say to him with Bayliss that "to secure good ventilation it is only necessary to remove impure air, and that, with the whole volume of the atmosphere existing on all sides, a pressure equal to about fourteen pounds to the square inch, it is as useless to pump fresh air into a building as it is to pump water down hill."

The water closets and soil pipes should also be ventilated, and a better supply of water be secured.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING-OFFICE.

This immense workshop, the largest of its kind in existence, employing 1,468 persons, and running hundreds of machines of various kinds, was found in very imperfect sanitary condition. Like the other public buildings, the windows and doors are expected to accomplish the ventilation, and no provision is made for isolation of specially offensive branches of the trades pursued.

The following table gives the information relative to dimensions of rooms, persons employed, &c.:

Government Printing-Office.

Room.	Dimensions. Length.	Width.	Height.	Number persons employed.	Air space—Cubic feet.	Air space to each person.
Press Room	253	60	12.4	152	187220	1231.71
Dry-Press Room	60	50	12.4	15	28000	1866.66
Composing Room	313	60	12.5	300	226976.66	756.58
Proof Room	113	22	12.5	32	30862.04	964.44
Bindery Room	426	60	11	450	281160	624.8
Folding Room	313	60	14	350	262920	751.20
Record and Specification Room	113	60	14	*68	94920	1396
Do	113	60	14	†88	94920	1078.63
Machine Shop	63	23	12	8	17388	2173.6
Carpenter Shop	40	20	16	5	12800	2560

*Day force. †Night force.

NOTE.—In reckoning the air space for each person the amount displaced by presses, cases, machinery, &c., is not deducted.

Our inspection was commenced in the press-room. This room occupies nearly the entire ground floor of the H street wing of the building, and one-third the floor space, if not more, is covered with presses and other machinery.

WANT OF PURE AIR

here, as in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, in the Treasury, has led them to make an attempt at ventilation, and, as in the former case, virtually nothing, or worse than nothing, has been accomplished. The device for supplying air consists of an opening about 2x10 or 2x12 inches in each window, made by removing a piece that size from the upper portion of one of the panes of glass in the top sash. This aperture is to be opened and closed at will by means of a piece of tin or sheet-iron, made to fit, working on a pivot, and to which a string is attached.

This is left, of course, to be manipulated by the persons employed near by, and, to judge from the condition in which we found a large majority, about the only action taken is to close them when a draught is encountered. Even if left open these would-be ventilators are inadequate to secure fresh [illegible] capacity of the rooms. Merely introducing fresh air into a building constructed as this one is. Draw out the foul air and its place will be supplied without artifical aid. The constant use of oil, ink, &c., in large quantities, generate impurities in the atmosphere which should be removed, and in addition to this the water-closets and room for washing type and plates, and for preparing ink, pour in their share. The room for preparing ink and for washing type, &c., is but a corner of the closet room, being separated only by a board partition extending half-way to the ceiling. The door leading from this room into the press-room stands open and all the offensive odors from closets, ink, plates, &c., are carried in, there being no other means of ventilation.

The closets are offensive, defective, and insufficient in number, there being only five bowls for the accommodation of all the male employees. These closets should be separated from the main building on every floor and have a free circulation of air all around them; the soil pipes should also be ventilated.

The same isolation should be had in the case of the type-washing, ink-preparing, and other offensive departments. The composing room occupies the floor above the press room, and is considerably larger. Three hundred persons are employed in this room, and without deducting for the amount displaced by cases, machinery, &c., they are provided with 756.58 cubic feet of air *per capita*. There is no means of ventilation other than the small device in windows already referred to, and the air at the time of inspection was very offensive.

THE WATER-CLOSETS

here are situated similar to those in the press room, are insufficient in number, having only six bowls for 300 persons, and very defective. They are of the pattern known as "pan closets," defective in principle and unsatisfactory in operation. Bayless, in his "House Drainage and Water Service," says of the pan closet: "As commonly made, the principal objection to this form of closet is that, in addition to allowing the foul air from the sewer to escape, it increases the mischief by manufacturing a great deal of offensive and dangerous gas on its own account. In use the side of the receiver against which the pan discharges its contents when tilted becomes coated with a mass of foulness which clings to and cakes upon it. * * * It is no uncommon thing to find the inside of a receiver so clogged that it is difficult to open the pan. Matter thrown out is often scooped up again as it returns to its place.

"Human excrement is naturally viscious and plastic, and when dashed against a rough surface like the inside of an iron casting it takes hold and clings, especially as it is untouched by water, which rushes down the basin and into the soil pipe when the pan is tilted. From this clinging matter, undergoing composition, more or less rapid according to circumstances, there constantly arise gases as poisonous as any which come from the foulest sewers. These gases are held under constantly increasing pressure between the two seals, and when the upper seal is broken by tilting the pan the water thrown down must, of course, displace the gases and force them out. If not thus liberated they will come through the water seal in the pan.

"If the trap in the soil branch under such a closet is unventilated, its seal offers very little effective resistance to the upward passage of gases from the sewer and pipe. As a rule, the flow of water into closets of this kind is insufficient to flush the trap; consequently the seal is seldom completely changed and there is almost always a mass of undissolved faeces floating therein. With all these facts in mind it is easy to understand why a disagreeable smell, and sometimes an overpowering stench, is instantly emitted when the pan-seal of such closet is broken." The constant use of these closets by such a large number of persons and the limited supply of water on the upper floors renders ventilation of soil-pipes imperative.

The atmosphere in the proof-room was an improvement on that of the two former, but it too should be properly ventilated. The bindery was very close. And here again we found an offensive department, emitting its organic impurities into the workroom.

The room for preparing glue, in a corresponding position to that of the ink room, on the first floor, opens directly into the bindery, and the offensive vapors thrown off from this material are carried into the lungs of employees. Here again the closets are ill-ventilated, defective, and insufficient.

In both the folding room and *Record* and specification room ventilation is badly needed. In the latter a night force is worked, and the numerous gas-jets contribute largely to the impurity of the atmosphere.

In a building constructed as this is, and using a large steam-power, the introduction of a system of ventilation by fans and air ducts should not be expensive and very easily applied. The necessity therefor is urgent, and I sincerely trust that we may see its inauguration in the near future.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report I can only say that I earnestly hope action may be taken at an early day looking to the ventilation of the public buildings in this city.

Ventilation is the one thing wanting, and none of them are free from the defect. The architect of the future will give more study to this subject than has his brother of the past, or in all probability one terming himself a ventilating engineer will be found taking a prominent hand in all his plans.

Were all our public buildings well and thoroughly ventilated I am confident that a marked decrease in the death rate of the District from certain diseases would result.

I will not attempt to give a plan for the accomplishment of the purpose; there are architects and engineers in the Government employ more competent than myself to devise means to this end. It is only necessary to remove the foul air from corridors and rooms and then to preserve a uniform temperature. Very respectfully,

SMITH TOWNSHEND, M. D.,
Health Officer D. C.

MARRIED.

In this city, on the 8th inst., by Rev. Dr. J. E. Rankin, R. G. STANWOOD, M. D., of Waterbury, Conn., to FRANCES D. BOWKER, of Brunswick, Me.

DIED.

COUES.—On the 8th of April, 1879, of meningitis, CHARLES PAGE, aged 4 years 1 month and 24 days, third son of Jeannie Augusta and Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A.

Funeral from 1619 K street, at 2 p. m., to-day (Thursday.

HODGES.—On Wednesday morning, April 9, 1879, NETTIE, wife of William H. Hodges, and daughter of the late Lewis Wright, esq.

Funeral at 3 o'clock on Friday, from St. Mark's Church, Third and A streets southeast. Friends of the family are invited without further notice.

[Jersey City papers please copy.] **

YOUNG.—On the morning of April 8, 1879, after a short illness, ELIZA W. YOUNG, widow of the late John M. Young, in the sixty-eighth year of her age.

Funeral on Thursday afternoon, the tenth inst., at three o'clock, from her late residence, No. 356 Missouri avenue northwest. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE LIBRARY

The National Repu

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1879.

are utterly opposed to the revival in this country, or any part thereof, of African slavery, or any other kind of slavery, or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime. They stand pledged to maintain the Union of the States under the Constitution, with all its existing amendments as they shall be expounded by the Supreme Court of the United States. They are against all unconstitutional or revolutionary methods. They are for law and order, and the protection of life, liberty, and property, without respect of persons or social conditions. For the redress of all grievances they look alone to the peaceful instrumentality of the Constitution—first, the law-making power; second, the law-expounding power; third, the law-executing power, and finally the ultimate sovereign power of the ballot-box. They are for a free ballot as well as for a fair and just count. While they are opposed to a large standing army, as were the framers of the Constitution, yet they are for keeping the army sufficiently large to repel invasion, defend our extensive frontier, as well as all necessary interior forts and

AN INSULT TO THE FLAG.

Company A's Neglect of the Stars and Stripes.

Spirited Meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic — The Light Infantry Denounced for Their Vacilating Loyalty to the National Emblem— Strong Language from Veterans, &c., &c.

A Censure for Company A.

Pursuant to a call, about 200 veteran soldiers of the Union army met at Grand Army Hall last evening. Mr. H. J. Gifford was called to the chair and Mr. B. F. Hawkes chosen secretary.

The chair in a short speech stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of considering what action should be taken regarding the non-appearance of the United States flag in the ranks of the visiting military from Norfolk, Va., or in Company A, the Washington organization that received them at the wharf in this city yesterday. The principal streets of this city had been marched through and the inhabitants insulted by a piece of blue silk, called the State flag of Virginia, but no Stars and Stripes could be discerned. He then invited those present to take such action as they might see fit.

Mr. E. C. Ford called attention to the fact that this was the second time within a year that a visiting military organization had paraded the streets of Washington under escort of the local military company, and both had studiously avoided displaying the United States flag. He thought it was an exhibition which should be discountenanced, and favored the appointment of a committee to wait upon Company A and request them to carry the Stars and Stripes on their march to-day. Before action could be taken Mr. W. B. Gonsalvez moved that a committee of six be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The motion was adopted, and the following were appointed on the committee: Messrs. Gonsalvez, Heron, Ford, Hawkes, Joyce, and Miller. The committee retired, and remarks were called for.

Mr. S. E. Thomason said some action should be taken relative to rebel companies visiting the nation's capital and failing to display a Union emblem. Last year no less than four companies from Virginia visited Washington, all of whom failed to exhibit anything but a blue rebel flag. The time had come for Union men to do something. These infernal rebels had been whipped at Appomottox Court-House by men who carried the Stars and Stripes, and slunk off like whipped curs. Now they are coming back and exhibiting rebel rags, instead of the flag of the nation.

Mr. J. B. Dunning said he saw the visiting company escorted through the streets by the Washington Light Infantry. He saw no flag except a blue one borne by the visitors, bearing the inscription, "*Sic Semper Tyrannis.*" This motto was very dear to the Southern people, especially since Booth had used it at the time he assassinated President Lincoln. It was strange that the visitors did not have a United States flag, but stranger still that Company A had not corrected the error. The visit of these Virginians was well timed. But a few days ago the pronunciamento of that rebel wiper-out, Blackburn, had been issued, that measures of the war now on the statute books should be erased. It was no wonder, then, that he met his friends at the wharf. Instead of bearing a flag at the head of their column they should have had a pair of pants inscribed "Pestilence." It was a time-this was not in consonance with the doctrines of the rebel leaders in Congress. The affair yesterday was a national insult. But it was not the first time it had been done. It was a matter of frequent occurrence. Now the proper thing to do was to take steps which would show to the whole country that at the seat of Government there were enough Union men to repudiate the action of a crowd of Confederates and their sympathizers who refused to carry a national flag in their parade.

Mr. G. P. Stiles said the meeting of these Union soldiers was not brought about by a feeling of frenzy, but it was intended to express in terms unmistakable their disapprobation of the insult offered to them. A great object was to be attained by the present Congress, and by any means. The rebellion originated in the Democratic party, and soldiers had to oppose the same elements they fought against eighteen years ago. By the action of the rebel soldiers yesterday they evinced a desire to cast a slur upon the old flag. [At this point an American flag was unfurled and created great enthusiasm, round after round of applause being given with hearty good will.]

Mr. S. Weaver said if the specimens seen on the streets of Washington yesterday were types of Southern soldiers, they were hardly worth wasting time. They had been born since the war, and raised in the soud of Virginia. Their first lesson had been that the Stars and Stripes were not their emblem, but the Stars and Bars were. As their action yesterday was the result of their training, they could hardly be blamed. Instead of wasting their fire on a few "Virginia babies," it would be better to turn the guns on Company A, of this city. The Virginians had boasted that in four visits to Washington they saw no United States flag. Now, a proper thing to do would be to make Company A carry the Stars and Stripes or disband.

Mr. Thompson said if Company A had no flag to use on parade it would be a good plan to take up a subscription and buy them one.

Mr. Saville said that section 1633 of the Revised Statutes only compels regiments or battalions to carry a United States flag. There was nothing, however, to prevent a company from carrying one, and a visiting organization should respect the National Government enough to do so.

Mr. Weaver said Company A had carried a United States flag when they visited Northern cities, but studiously avoided showing it to their gray-back visitors, for fear of offending them or hurting their feelings. The result of this was when the rebels returned home they boasted that no Union flag waved over them on their trip. It remained for Company A to refute this slander by conspicuously displaying the national emblem on all occasions and thus throw the insult back in the teeth of their visitors.

Major Montis said he had never seen a parade or a company that did not exhibit a United States flag. Custom would have dictated to Company A that they should have met the visiting company at the wharf with a United States flag, if they were in the habit of carrying one at Boston, and Harrisburg, and other Northern cities.

Mr. Bunnell said if Company A had met the rebel company with a United States flag the howl would have gone up from Congress that intimidation was being used. Consequently the flag was laid aside out of respect for the feelings of gentlemen "from across the country."

Major Dillon said the emblem of authority should have preceded Company A, as the organization was commisssoned by the Executive of the nation.

Mr. Saville said the rebs had a wholesome dread of the flag in the past, and that was the cause of their hate now.

A. H. G. Richardson said Company A was an independent company. In other portions of the country not only State, but United States, flags were carried. Companies never thought of turning out without carrying both colors.

S. E. Thomason said that Company A represented the First Regiment National Guards. The officers of the company were now acting under commissions as regimental officers. He would be one of a party to go on the streets and hoot and howl at Company A until they were driven back to their armory to get a United States flag.

Mr. Thompson said that Company A was a creature of the Government and could be abolished by a word from the President of the United States.

Mr. Scott said when A Company went North and West they carried a United States flag. On the other hand, when Southern companies come they refrain from carrying the flag out of courtesy. The idea of the meeting should be to show disgust at the action of Company A.

Mr. Newton Ferree said every company carrying United States arms should be made to carry a United States flag.

Mr. Scott said when a Southern company visited Washington the American flag was conspicuously absent. The Southern people want to bury all animosities of the war, and, to do so, all obnoxious items, among which is the United States flag, must be laid away.

Captain Brown said he would join a party to compel Company A to carry a United States flag. It was but right that they should do so, living as they did under the dome of the Capitol.

Mr. S. Lincoln said he was not surprised that the visiting company did not carry a United States flag, as a majority of its members were opposed to it. These creatures had come to Washington and flaunted an insult in the faces of Union men. Company A were such tender-skinned creatures and had so much feeling for these Rebel whelps that they should be the ones fired at, and not the visitors who had such a holy horror of the flag.

The committee on resolutions returned and reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, after which the meeting adjourned:

Whereas this city has recently been visited by a company of men from the State of Virginia, armed at the expense of the United States Government; and

Whereas an organization of men designated as Company A Washington Light Infantry, has received and escorted said company from Virginia through the public streets of the Capital of the United States, refusing or neglecting to bear, in accordance with a time-honored custom on such occasions, the flag of our country: and

Whereas it is believed that said Company A refused or neglected to bear our national emblem out of deference to the wishes of the said company from Virginia: Therefore be it

Resolved, That we, honorably discharged Union soldiers and sailors, who served during the late rebellion, desire and deem it eminently proper to express our utter contempt of any organization of men, calling themselves soldiers, who are furnished arms by the National Government, who, under any circumstances or pretenses whatever, would consent or be persuaded to appear upon the public streets of any city in this Union without bearing the Stars and Stripes.

Resolved, That said Company A of this city, by appearing upon the streets of the Capital of the United States as escorts for a military organization without the national flag, merits and deserves the reproach and contempt of all loyal men, and that in the future we shall regard the absence of the United States flag from their ranks on parade as a direct and intended insult to the entire loyal community and as forfeiting their support.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the honorable Secretary of War, with the request that he direct that all companies armed by the United States Government shall bear the national emblem on all parades.

"An Insult to the Flag of Their Country."

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: All men and women in the District of Columbia loyal to the flag of their country were surprised and indignant to see the Washington Light Infantry escort their Norfolk friends through the streets of Washington yesterday without any United States flag. The Norfolk company were dressed in rebel grey and were also without any United States flag, but carried the *colors of Virginia*. Are these men ashamed of the old flag? At this late day do they suppose they can insult the flag of their country? They tried it once down in Virginia and got badly whipped, so soon forgotten their promises? Have they forgotten that Virginia has been converted into a mausoleum for their dead, and a waste of desolation as a consequence of such treason?

But what excuse can the Washington Light Infantry have for thus insulting the flag of their country? The arms and accoutrements they bear have been furnished by the District of Columbia. They are contributed by calling on our loyal citizens to help support their organization, and aid them in entertaining their friends from abroad. Do they suppose their conduct meets with the approbation of their friends? If they have as members those who served in the rebel army, and dislike the stars and stripes, let them step down and out, and loyal men will fill their places.

The Washington Light Infantry can rest assured that they must carry the United States colors when they parade the streets of the National Capital. The District Commissioners must enforce this order, or they must step down and out, and their places shall be filled with loyal men. Forbearance has ceased to be a virtue, and the people of the District of Columbia will not tolerate this any longer. No country on the face of the globe would allow a military company to parade without carrying the national colors. Shall they be allowed to parade the streets to-day offering an insult to the flag of their country? M.

Another Man Who Noticed It.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: Why is it that the Southern gentlemen who love the Union so dearly, as we are told by some of the prominent Southern statesmen in Congress, have such a holy horror of the United States flag? I noticed this morning that the military company from Norfolk, Va., on a visit to our city, were without one. Even our own company "A," out of tender regard for the feelings of their guests, refrained from carrying the banner of our country. They may have had a hint that their visitors would refuse to march after the hated emblem of the Union.

EX-UNION SOLDIER.

THE GREAT DOG SHOW.

Honors Bestowed Upon the Purps.

NEW YORK, April 9.—At the dog show to-night among the prizes awarded were the following: English setters—Minto, owned by Lincoln & Hellyar, Warren, Mass., first; Abbey, by Edward L. Montague, New York, second; Meg, by Samuel Scanlon, Rhode Island, third. English setter puppies over six months: Dogs—Wellington, owned by D. T. Charles, Albany, N. Y., first; Royal Pomp, by W. H. Pierce, Peekskill, second. English setter puppies over six months: Bitches—Tricket, owned by D. T. Charles, Albany, first; Polka, the Lloyd Kennel, second. Champion black-and-tan setter dogs—Trump, owned C. M. Pond, Hartford, Conn., first: Bitches—Nellie, owned by S. W. Rodman, Boston, first. Black-and-tan setters: Dogs—Turk, owned by T.F. Taylor, first; Ben, owned by E. L. Mills, Washington, D. C., second; Dash, owned by C. T. Brownell, New Bedford, Mass., third. Bitches—Lady Gordon, owned by the Aldine Kennel of Chicago, first; Nelly F., owned by F. Frendenthall, Norwalk, Conn., second; Bess, owned by L. Curtis, Boston, Mass. Black-and-tan setter puppies, over six months old: Dogs—Duke, owned by H. W. Huntington, Brooklyn, first; Scott, owned by T. T. Sawyer, jr., Boston. Black-and-tan setter puppies—Brenda, owned by S. D. Schenck, New York, first; Dream, owned by A. Powell, second. Black-and-tan setter puppies under six months old: Dogs—Brighton, owned by S. F. Speer, first. More prizes will be awarded to-morrow.

Progress of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

[Special dispatch to the Republican.]

END OF TRACK S. P. R. R.,
ARIZONA, April 9.

Eight thousand three hundred feet of track laid yesterday. J. H. STROBRIDGE,
Chief of Construction.

SITUATION AT ALASKA.

The Citizens Alarmed at the Present Prospect.

British Steamer Osprey Relieved by the Alaska—The Alaska's Stay to be Brief—An Attack Certain if the Alaska Leaves—Appeal to the President — Collector Ball's Fears, &c., &c., &c.

Advices from Sitka.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 9.—A Victoria dispatch says the British gunboat Osprey arrived this morning from Sitka, where she was relieved on the 3d instant by the United States ship Alaska. All was quiet at the time of the Osprey's departure. On the night of the 29th ultimo trouble was feared, and, at the request of Colonel —, collector of the port, requested the commander of the Osprey to have his men in readiness to land the moment a signal was given from the shore. The request was complied with, and the crew of the United States revenue steamer Oliver Wolcott, lying off Indian Village, also stood to quarters all night, but no occasion arose for their services.

It afterward appeared that a number of Chileate Indians, recently arrived from the north, had been holding a drunken carouse with their friends in the village, during which a quarrel arose, and a Sitka chief named Anahoots, who is friendly to the whites and lives within the stockade, was severely wounded. One of his assailants was also badly hurt, and the Chileates threatened to kill Anahoots in retaliation. It was feared that the quarrel might result in a general attack on the whites on account of the unfriendly relations with Anahoots. Aside from this no trouble arose during the Osprey's stay at Sitka.

COLLECTOR BALL APPREHENSIVE.

The following has been received from Victoria:

CUSTOM HOUSE, SITKA, ALASKA, April 3.

Allen Francis, esq., United States Consul, Victoria:

DEAR SIR: The United States steamer Alaska, Captain Brown, arrived here this morning and the British ship Osprey will sail at three this afternoon. I have only time to say that from Captain Brown's information to me of his orders and intentions, this place will soon be left in greater danger than ever. The Indians are incensed at the sending of the murderers below and the Chileates have already arrived to demand redress. They openly sneer at the Wolcott as unable to protect us, and that is true. We might all be massacred in sight of her and without power to prevent, for she cannot land a man to help us, and could not fire on friends and foes alike in a fight. The leaving of the Alaska will confirm the Indians, in their belief that the Government does not care to protect the country, of which they openly boast now. I know a purpose exists and is fixed among them to sack the town, which involves a massacre, of course. I have done all I could to bring these facts to the attention of the Government, and it seems useless to me to attempt any more, but, if you know how to use this information, do so officially or in any way possible. I have not started this alarm nor suffered myself to catch it excitedly, but I know the situation here is dangerous and extreme.

M. D. BALL,
Collector, Sitka, Alaska.

AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT.

To the President of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

In behalf of 300 residents of this city we ask protection for our lives. When the ship Alaska leaves us we will be helpless. The Indians are ready now to attack, and may as soon as she leaves. The danger is imminent.

[Signed by Alexander Milletich, J. Schmeig, M. W. Richter, T. Milletich, J. Corcoran, Rev. N. G. Mitropolsky, priests of the Russian Church, with a congregation of 24: Thomas Haltern, and F. F. McGuire.]

CUSTOM-HOUSE, SITKA, April 3.

I certify that I believe the danger imminent as specified in the above. M. D. BALL,
Collector.

Regarding Recent Southern History.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: Your readers doubtless concur with you that, "One of the strangest features of the pending debate in the House is the ignorance of Northern Republicans who are engaged in it regarding [illegible] to which their Southern copartisans have been subjected since the war." The hypocritical pretensions of Southern Democrats in this debate are worthy of the men who are themselves the representatives and direct products of the grossest outrages on the ballot-box, and the elective rights of freemen that blacken the history of any free government.

They the defenders of fair elections, the guardians of purity and freedom at the polls! Assurance and impudence refined into the sublime.

Out upon such insulting and villianous effrontery. Let the mask be torn from their faces and the hideous visages beneath be exposed to the scorn and contempt they deserve.

The present is no time to deal in honied phrase and to conjure the delusive hope of Southern reconciliation on honorable terms. The evidence is all on one side. It is time the country were made familiar with it.

Let the Republicans confront and confound these men with a recital, in historical order, of the high-handed wrongs they have committed upon the elective franchise while professing the same patriotic regard for its purity and protection as they flaunt so virtuously into our faces to-day. Let Republicans show that absolute freedom of election has not been known in the South for at least fifty years past. To have voted for Fremont or Lincoln would have been to invite tar and feathers if not hemp at the nearest tree. That instead of relying upon a fair and free election to win their victories, they have relied upon physical force for success; that the South was made solid for secession in 1861 by exactly the same methods that make it solid to-day; that States were forced into the Confederacy at the point of the bayonet and notoriously Tennessee, whose people, by the overwhelming vote of 70,000 majority, had declared against disunion, and within three months thereafter, while still a State in the Union, was overrun with brigades of Confederates from Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, her Union men intimidated, driven to the forests and mountains, or cast into prisons, and then, with the armed invaders surrounding her ballot-boxes, resistlessly dragged into the rebellion. That since reconstruction began their black and bloody record is unbroken by a single remission, except when their death-dealing hands were stayed by the strong arm of national power. That organized, officered, and armed bands of Ku-Klux, White Liners, rifle clubs, and Democratic regulators have infested every State of the South since 1867. That the sole and avowed object of these organizations was to commit outrages upon electors and the electoral franchise. That these armed bands, by a system of intimidation, assassination, and crime unparalleled in wickedness and brutality, have subverted free governments in the South, established the rule of the armed minority over the weak and helpless majority by sheer force, trampled the elective franchise in the dust, and to-day hold the majority in subjection by organized terrorism and power. That they have no more regard for State lines now than they had in 1861, when they invaded Tennessee, and cross and recross them to assist their co-workers in crime whenever occasion may seem to require. That their numbers in either South Carolina, Mississippi, or Louisiana exceed the entire army of the United States. That the roll of the martyred dead slain in this unequal struggle for liberty swells into the thousands, while a history of their heroic sufferings would fill volumes so numerous, but damnable in atrocity, that loyal men would stand appalled at their recital and hide their heads in shame that they were committed in free America. That at least half the Democratic Representatives and Senators from the South owe their election directly to these methods of armed and overpowering violence. That they hold their